

**To:** Kobelski, Bruce[Kobelski.Bruce@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Robin, George[Robin.George@epa.gov]  
**From:** Robin, George  
**Sent:** Wed 7/30/2014 9:27:07 PM  
**Subject:** RE: (notes) ProPublica article on the GAO report on EPA UIC program

Hi Bruce,

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

George

Pasted below (minus the GAO report) is the original story from BNA last Monday 7/28/2014, along with my notes from that skimming that I sent to our UIC Deep well group:

fyi, excerpts that caught my attention:

### Agency Comments and Our Evaluation (pg. 55)

- “...We recognize EPA’s efforts to provide additional information to state and EPA-managed programs on induced seismicity, overpressurization, and permitting

hydraulic fracturing operations that use diesel fuels, but these efforts do not completely address the issues we identified. As a part of these efforts, it is important that the UIC Technical Workgroup provide information to states and EPA-managed programs on the other risks posed to underground sources of drinking water by overpressurization of formations, such as potential contamination by surface breakout of injected fluids as occurred in Oklahoma in recent years...”

## **Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

### **List of Requesters (pg. 59)**

The Honorable Barbara Boxer

Chairman

Committee on Environment and Public Works

United States Senate

The Honorable Henry Waxman

Ranking Member

Committee on Energy and Commerce

House of Representatives

The Honorable Peter DeFazio

Ranking Member

Committee on Natural Resources

House of Representatives

The Honorable Benjamin Cardin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate

The Honorable Diana DeGette  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
House of Representatives

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senate

The Honorable Edward Markey  
United States Senate

**EPA Should Assess Emerging Risks of Fracking Wells, GAO Says**

*Posted July 28, 2014, 3:13 P.M. ET*

By [Pat Ware](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency should review emerging risks related to injection of fluids into oil and gas wells, according to a [report](#) released today by the Government Accountability Office.

Overall, the safeguards in place at the wells to prevent contamination of underground sources of drinking water are effective, and very few incidents of contamination have occurred, the EPA and the states told the GAO.

However, the existing safeguards do not address emerging underground risks, such as seismic activity and overly high pressure in geologic formations that could lead to surface outbreaks of fluids, the report said.

The GAO also recommended that the EPA ensure it can effectively oversee and efficiently enforce its class II underground injection well programs.

Class II wells are one of the EPA's six classifications of wells, categorized by the type of waste injected. The oil and gas industry injects more 2 billion gallons of brines and other fluids daily into some 172,000 class II wells to enhance oil and gas production, including those that employ hydraulic fracturing, the GAO said.

**From:** Kobelski, Bruce

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 30, 2014 1:29 PM

**To:** Graves, Brian; UIC National Technical Workgroup--EPA Members; Lawrence, Rob; Moore, Keara; Green, Holly

**Subject:** RE: ProPublica article on the GAO report on EPA UIC program

Pro-publica must have read a different report from the one I have. It didn't say many of these things.

**From:** Kobelski, Bruce

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 30, 2014 3:36 PM

**To:** Graves, Brian; UIC National Technical Workgroup--EPA Members; Lawrence, Rob; Moore, Keara; Green, Holly

**Subject:** RE: ProPublica article on the GAO report on EPA UIC program

What have you guys been up to lately!

**From:** Graves, Brian

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 30, 2014 1:46 PM

**To:** UIC National Technical Workgroup--EPA Members; Lawrence, Rob; Moore, Keara; Green, Holly

**Subject:** FW: ProPublica article on the GAO report on EPA UIC program

**From:** Overbay, Michael  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 30, 2014 12:41 PM  
**To:** Honker, William; Garcia, David; Coleman, Sam  
**Cc:** Dwyer, Stacey; Brown, Jamesr; R6 6WQ-SG  
**Subject:** ProPublica article on the GAO report on EPA UIC program

<http://www.propublica.org/article/report-criticizes-epa-oversight-of-injection-wells>